

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE BRILLIANT CAREER OF SATCHMEL PAIGE

Leroy "Satchel" Paige, greatest Negro pitcher of all-time and to-day, is the idol of his race in the diamond game, as Joe Louis is to boxing.

Paige is a magnet for large crowds everywhere he pitches. In Briggs Stadium, Detroit, he has drawn 40,000. In Comiskey Stadium, Chicago, at the East-West game, 50,000. Sportsman's Park, St. Louis, 20,000. Shibe Park, Philadelphia, 25,000. Griffith Stadium, Washington, 30,000. Yankee Stadium, New York, 25,000.

Satchel is a gangling 35-year old Alabaman, 6 feet 3 inches in height, and a picture to watch. His speed is like lightning out of the skies. And, he can throw a baseball wherever he wants it, having uncanny control. Blessed with a calm temperament, Satchel claims he can stand on one foot for 10 minutes before delivering the ball. He is careful how he warms up and won't throw a baseball until every muscle is thoroughly relaxed.

Paige has played against many Major leaguers, a number of them, including Joe DiMaggio and Dizzy Dean remarking that he is the greatest hurler they have ever seen. Although this is his ~~19th~~ 21st season in the big-time, Paige maintains he could win 25 games a year in the white majors. However, he is not interested in playing in white organized baseball, as he can make considerably more money staying right where he is and getting a big share of the money he draws at the gate, besides a top regular salary.

Satchel has a buggy-arm whip, and in addition to his speed, has an underhand curve and change of pace, with which to baffle the hitters. One season he averages 11 strikeouts per game, winning 31 contests that summer. He loves to bat and has a lifetime average of .323. When his pitching days are over, he hopes to continue in the game as a first baseman.

Paige has appeared in over 1900 games during his career, which included many Winter seasons in Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South America, Hawaii, Central America, Japan and the Coast Winter League. In many season's he appeared in 125 games a year.

When it is considered that the recognized record for games pitched in by one man is 874, held by Denton T. "Cy" Young, compiled while with the Cleveland Nationals, St. Louis Nationals, Boston Americans, Cleveland Americans and Boston Nationals, from 1890 to 1911 inclusive, you can see that Satchel Paige has probably established a record that no man will ever be able to equal, and he is not through yet, by any means.

Paige has probably pitched more no-hit games, more shut-outs and more victories than any other hurler in history, as against fewer defeats. He also has, without a doubt, hung up more strikeouts. Many of these achievements were made against teams of top-notch white major leaguers out on the Coast and on barnstorming tours.